

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 INRE-00 NSCE-00 EB-11 AID-20

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FM USDEL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 48

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ALEXANDRIA 65

SECTO 93

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT AND ZEIGLER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG SY IS MARR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SADAT/SECRETARY KISSINGER PRESS CONFERENCE

ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT, 9:30 PM, MAY 1, 1974

Q. DOES IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS INCLUDE THE SALE OF
ARMS BY THE UNITED STATES TO EGYPT?

A. SADAT - WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT THE ECONOMIC AID AND
THE RECONSTRUCTION AID AND THE SUEZ CANAL, BUT REGARDING
THE MILITARY AID WE ARE NOT IN IMMINENT NEED FOR THIS
AND I DIDN'T DEMAND ANYTHING.

Q. DID YOU ASK?

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A. I DIDN'T ASK EVEN; BECAUSE YOU KNOW I HAVE DECLARED OFFICIALLY THAT WE SHALL BE VARYING THE SOURCES OF ARMS. THIS WAS THE DECISION THAT WAS TAKEN BY ME AND THE ARMED FORCES.

Q. CAN I ASK DR. KISSINGER HOW FAR HE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HIS COMING TRIP TO SYRIA AND ISRAEL? AND WHAT ARE THE CHANCES?

A. KISSINGER - I'M ALWAYS OPTIMISTIC. I THINK THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH SYRIA AND ISRAEL AND FOR PEACE IN THE AREA THAT PROGRESS BE MADE ON THE SEPARATION OF FORCES BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. IT IS THE PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVE OF OUR POLICY AT THIS MOMENT AND I WILL MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT. AND I HAVE HAD VERY USEFUL TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, YOU KNOW IT'S SUGGESTED THERE HAS BEEN RATHER WIDE RANGING OPTIMISM AND IT'S BEEN SUGGESTED THAT AN AGREEMENT HAS AT LEAST BEEN ALREADY PARTIALLY ACHIEVED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA. WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THAT?

A. KISSINGER - THERE IS NO AGREEMENT THAT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. I EXPECT THAT THE TALKS WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT AND THAT WE WILL NOT HAVE AN EASY PASSAGE BUT A DECISION OF THIS KIND WILL BE MADE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA. THEREFORE WE CAN'T JUDGE THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM UNTIL WE HAVE VISITED THOSE TWO COUNTRIES.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, WHY DID YOU DECIDE AFTER YOUR TALKS HERE TO RETURN HERE ON SATURDAY, WHAT FACTORS...?

A. KISSINGER - I DON'T REALLY KNOW AT THIS MOMENT THE DETAILED POSITION THAT BOTH ISRAEL AND SYRIA ARE GOING TO TAKE ON MY VISITS THERE. AND IT SEEMED TO ME USEFUL AND I'M VERY GRATEFUL THAT PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT HAS INVITED ME TO GAIN THE BENEFIT OF HIS VIEWS ON THE SITUATION AS IT WILL THEN EXIST BEFORE RETURN TO (GARBLED).

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Q. MR. SECRETARY, IS IT ACCURATE THAT SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO WILL BE IN DAMASCUS AT THE SAME TIME AS YOU ON FRIDAY?

A. KISSINGER - I'M NOT AWARE OF THE FACT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO WILL BE IN DAMASCUS ON FRIDAY. I WILL BE SURPRISED IF I FIND HIM THERE.

Q. DO YOU FIND, DR. KISSINGER, THERE IS ANY NECESSITY FOR A GENEVA CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF DISENGAGEMENT OR MODALITIES OF DISENGAGEMENT?

A. KISSINGER - I AGREE COMPLETELY WITH THE VIEW EXPRESSED EARLIER BY PRESIDENT SADAT THAT THE APPROPRIATE TIME FOR THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL BE AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE DISENGAGEMENT ISSUE, MR. SECRETARY?

A. KISSINGER - I BELIEVE THAT THE DISENGAGEMENT ISSUE CAN BE SETTLED THROUGH THE PROCESS WHICH IS NOW UNDERWAY.

Q. MR. PRESIDENT, ARE YOU SATISFIED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS NOW IN A POSITION TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE AND COOPERATIVE ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT DISENGAGEMENT AND THAT IT IS PREPARED TO DO SO?

A. SADAT - I HOPE IT IS.

Q. BUT YOU HAVE NO ASSURANCES?

A. SADAT - AS I TOLD YOU I HOPE IT IS.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT TO BE BACK HERE, DR. KISSINGER?

A. KISSINGER - WELL I EXPECT TO BE BACK HERE ON SATURDAY.

Q. AND ON THE THIRD VISIT TOO?

A. KISSINGER - I WILL NOT BE SURPRISED THAT, IF THE PRESIDENT WILL LET ME COME BACK, I MAY WANT TO BENEFIT FROM HIS
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WISDOM ONCE AGAIN.

A. SADAT - WELCOME

Q. MR. PRESIDENT, DO YOU THINK THAT THE FORMATION OF THE NEW CABINET IN ISRAEL WILL HINDER THE TALKS ON DISENGAGEMENT?

A. SADAT - MY INFORMATION IS THAT THE NEW CABINET HAS NOT YET BEEN FORMED UP TO THIS MOMENT.

Q. YES, BUT THE COMING FORMATION?

A. SADAT - THE COMING FORMATION? WELL LET US POSTPONE IT UNTIL IT COMES AND LET US SEE WHO WILL COME AS MINISTERS AND THE WHOLE CABINET AND SO AND THEN WE CAN JUDGE THE

WHOLE THING.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, HAVE YOU REACHED THE STAGE WHERE YOU HAVE FORMULATED YOUR AMERICAN VISUALIZATION FOR PLANS FOR THE DISENGAGEMENT OF BOTH SIDES?

A. KISSINGER - I WILL PROCEED AS I DID IN THE CASE OF EGYPT THAT IS TO SAY THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY IS THAT OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED. AFTER I HAVE SEEN THE NEXT POSITION OF THE TWO SIDES I MAY THEN, PERHAPS, SUGGEST SOME IDEAS OF MY OWN WHEN I MAY URGE THE TWO SIDES TO RETHINK THEIR POSITIONS. BUT AS I SAID I AM NOT GOING TO EITHER DAMASCUS OR TO TEL AVIV WITH AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL.

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK, DR. KISSINGER, IS THE MAIN DIFFICULTY CONCERNING DISENGAGEMENT?

A. KISSINGER - I THINK THE MAIN DIFFICULTY IS DISTRUST BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. AND IF WE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO OVERCOMING THE DISTRUST SOME OF THE PRACTICAL ISSUES WILL SORT THEMSELVES OUT FAIRLY QUICKLY.

Q. DR. KISSINGER, WHEN DO YOU EXPECT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD MEET? AND WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR THIS CONFERENCE?

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A. KISSINGER - I THINK EVERYBODY IS AGREED THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONVENED AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. I THINK THE BEST WAY TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT IS AFTER THE DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS FINISH.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA, MR. SECRETARY, HOW LONG THIS MISSION WILL LAST?

A. KISSINGER - I THINK I'LL HAVE A BETTER JUDGEMENT AFTER I TALK TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED, BUT I DO WANT TO SAY THAT I WILL MAKE A VERY MAJOR EFFORT AND DO MY UTMOST.

Q. DO WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GENEVA TALKS WILL BE RESUMED AFTER THE DISENGAGEMENT ACTUALLY TAKES PLACE WHEN THE TWO ARMIES ARE SEPARATED OR JUST AFTER AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED AND THEN IT STARTS?

A. KISSINGER - I THINK THE INTERVAL BETWEEN THE COMPLETION OF THE AGREEMENT AND THE COMPLETION OF THE ACUTUALSEPARATION

OF FORCES WILL NOT BE SUCH A LONG WHILE. AND I WOULD THINK THE BEST TIME IS PROBABLY AFTER THE WHOLE PROCESS IS COMPLETED. BUT THIS IS SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION AMONG THE PARTIES.

Q. MR. PRESIDENT, YOU WILL BE GOING TO THE GENEVA MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE WHEN IT RESUMES?

A. SADAT - WHY SHOULD I GO? WE HAVE STARTED THE CONFERENCE ON THE LEVEL OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND IF WE REACH THE STAGE...AND THIS MUST BE THE FINAL STAGE...IF WE CAN REACH THIS STAGE IT MAY BE FEASIBLE AT THAT TIME BUT NOT BEFORE.

Q. MR. PRESIDENT, HAVE YOU DISCUSSED THE IDEAS FOR THE NEXT STAGE IN WITHDRAWAL IN THE SINAI?

A. SADAT - WE ALWAYS...THE SECRETARY I...WE ALWAYS DON'T CROSS BRIDGES BEFORE WE REACH THEM.

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Q. DR. KISSINGER, DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE REACHED A CERTAIN STAGE WHERE YOU CAN BE IN TOUCH WITH THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES?

A. KISSINGER - MY PRESENT EFFORT IS CONCENTRATED ON BRINGING ABOUT THE SEPARATION OF FORCES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA. AND I MUST DEVOTE ALL MY ENERGIES TO THIS ENTERPRISE AT THIS MOMENT.

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE, DR. KISSINGER, THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT YOU CAN REACH A PHASE WHERE THERE WILL BE A FULL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL ARAB OCCUPIED TERRITORIES?

A. KISSINGER - WE HAVE STATED IN THE DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND WE HAVE SAID IT PUBLICLY OUR SUPPORT FOR SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 338 AND 242.

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MR. SECRETARY.
KISSINGER

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